

Z₄₇ is S or D;
Z₄₈ is L or V;
Z₄₉ is N or Q;
Z₅₀ is V or I; and
M* is amino acid 550

*all
cont.*
and wherein S* in Formula I is designated as amino acid 420 and the first S in Formula II is designated as amino acid 421;

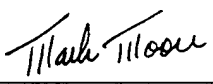
and wherein said variants exhibits a replication fitness in the presence of a nucleoside analogue similar to or greater than in the absence of said nucleoside analogue.

REMARKS

The above amendments are for the purpose of adding the sequence identifier numbers to the specification, drawings and claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

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AGENT FOR APPLICANTS

AMENDED CLAIMS FOR APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 09/877,340

2. (Amended) The HBV variant of claim 1, carrying a mutation in the nucleoside sequence encoding a DNA polymerase resulting in an amino acid addition, substitution and/or deletion in said DNA polymerase in one or more amino acids as set forth in Formula I and/or II:

FORMULA I

L, B₁, B₂, D, W, G, P, C, B₃, B₄, H, G, B₅, H, B₆, I, R, B₇, P, R, T, P, B₈, R, V, B₉, G, G, V, F, L, V, D, K, N, P, H, N, T, B₁₀, E, S, B₁₁, L, B₁₂, V, D, F, S, Q, F, S, R, G, B₁₃, B₁₄, B₁₅, V, S, W, P, K, F, A, V, P, N, L, B₁₆, S, L, T, N, L, L, S* (SEQ ID NO:1)

wherein:

- B₁ is L, or R, or I
B₂ is E, or D
B₃ is T, or D, or A, or N, or Y
B₄ is E, or D
B₅ is E, or K, or Q
B₆ is H, or R, or N,
B₇ is I, or T
B₈ is A, or S
B₉ is T or R
B₁₀ is A, or T, or S
B₁₁ is R, or T
B₁₂ is V, or G
B₁₃ is S, or I, or T, or N, or V
B₁₄ is T, or S, or H, or Y
B₁₅ is R, or H, or K, or Q
B₁₆ is Q, or P;

and

FORMULA II

S Z₁ L S W L S L D V S A A F Y H Z₂ P L H P A A M P H L L Z₃ G S S G L Z₄ R Y V
A R L S S Z₅ S Z₆ Z₇ X N Z₈ Q Z₉ Z₁₀ X X X Z₁₁ L H Z₁₂ Z₁₃ C S R Z₁₄ L Y V S
L Z₁₅ L L Y Z₁₆ T Z₁₇ G Z₁₈ K L H L Z₁₉ Z₂₀ H P I Z₂₁ L G F R K Z₂₂ P M G Z₂₃
G L S P F L L A Q F T S A I Z₂₄ Z₂₅ Z₂₆ Z₂₇ Z₂₈ R A F Z₂₉ H C Z₃₀ Z₃₁ F Z₃₂ Y
M* D D Z₃₃ V L G A Z₃₄ Z₃₅ Z₃₆ Z₃₇ H Z₃₈ E Z₃₉ L Z₄₀ Z₄₁ Z₄₂ Z₄₃ Z₄₄ Z₄₅ Z₄₆ L L
Z₄₇ Z₄₈ G I H L N P Z₄₉ K T K R W G Y S L N F M G Y Z₅₀ I G (SEQ ID NO:2)

wherein:

X is any amino acid;

Z₁ is N or D;

Z₂ is I or P;

Z₃ is I or V;

Z₄ is S or D;

Z₅ is T or N;

Z₆ is R or N;

Z₇ is N or I;

Z₈ is N or Y or H;

Z₉ is H or Y;

Z₁₀ is G or R;

Z₁₁ is D or N;

Z₁₂ is D or N;

Z₁₃ is S or Y;

Z₁₄ is N or Q;

Z₁₅ is L or M;

Z₁₆ is K or Q;

Z₁₇ is Y or F;

Z₁₈ is R or W;

Z₁₉ is Y or L;

Z₂₀ is S or A;
Z₂₁ is I or V;
Z₂₂ is I or L;
Z₂₃ is V or G;
Z₂₄ is C or L;
Z₂₅ is A or S;
Z₂₆ is V or M;
Z₂₇ is V or T;
Z₂₈ is R or C;
Z₂₉ is F or P;
Z₃₀ is L or V;
Z₃₁ is A or V;
Z₃₂ is S or A;
Z₃₃ is V or L or M;
Z₃₄ is K or R;
Z₃₅ is S or T;
Z₃₆ is V or G;
Z₃₇ is Q or E;
Z₃₈ is L or S or R;
Z₃₉ is S or F;
Z₄₀ is F or Y;
Z₄₁ is T or A;
Z₄₂ is A or S;
Z₄₃ is V or I;
Z₄₄ is T or C;
Z₄₅ is N or S;
Z₄₆ is F or V;
Z₄₇ is S or D;
Z₄₈ is L or V;
Z₄₉ is N or Q;
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M* is amino acid 550

and wherein S* in Formula I is designated as amino acid 420 and the first S in Formula II is designated as amino acid 421;

and wherein said variants exhibits a replication fitness in the presence of a nucleoside analogue similar to or greater than in the absence of said nucleoside analogue.